

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The above and other objects, features, and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description, reference being made to the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a largely schematic view partly in axial section through an apparatus for carrying out the method of this invention; and

FIGS. 2 through 6 are axial sections through details of variants on the system of the present invention.

## SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

As seen in FIG. 1, a container 4, here a cylindrical syringe body with a tip cap 10 and a plunger 3, is filled with a body of liquid 2 and gas 1. To sterilize the contents comprised of the gas 1 and liquid 2, the syringe 4, normally with a plurality of other such containers, is put in an autoclave chamber 13 associated with a heater 16, normally that injects steam into it, and a pump 15 that maintains it at superatmospheric pressure. This pump 15 can in fact be constituted by a pressure-control valve through which high-pressure superheated steam is fed into the chamber 13.

According to the invention the position of the plunger 3 is monitored by a pair of sensors 5 constituted as light curtains with light beams 7. they are connected to a controller